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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (18 Oct 67) FOR OT RD-670635

25 October 1967

AD389467

**SUBJECT:** Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters,  
2d Battalion, 11th Artillery

**TO:** SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from Lessons Learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 2D BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY  
APO 96256

AVOE-V

29 April 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (RCS-4MFOR-65) (U)

FROM: Commanding General  
Task Force Oregon  
ATTN: G2  
APO 96274

Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVO-01  
APO 96207

Commander-in-Chief  
United States Army Pacific  
ATTN: GADP-M1  
APO 96258

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development  
Department of the Army  
Washington, D. C., 20310

## SECTION I

### SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION AND UNIT ACTIVITIES

#### (U) Administration and Personnel:

a. The 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery, remains assigned to the 23d Artillery Group. The Battalion was attached to Task Force OREGON on 19 April 1967 as the medium artillery battalion for the Task Force.

b. Personnel strength of the command on 30 April 1967 was:

	TOE AUTH			MTOE PENDING			ASSIGNED		
	CTF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
Headquarters Battery	19	1	135			None	17	1	145
A Battery	3	0	111			"	3	0	127
B Battery	3	0	111			"	5	0	120
C Battery	3	0	111			"	7	0	115
Service Battery	2	3	84			"	2	2	92
TOTALS	30	4	552			"	34	3	599

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AVGE-V  
SUBJECT: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

29 April 67

c. This unit currently has no critical MOS shortages and the unit is actively conducting a personnel infusion program to reduce the effect of a heavy rotation expected in November 1967.

d. Personnel changes during the quarter include:

GAINS:	OFF	WO	EM	LOSSES:	OFF	WO	EM
	10	0	78		6	1	11

e. Casualties included:

TYPE	NUMBER
Killed in action	0
Wounded in action	1
Missing in action	0
Non battle dead	0
Non battle casualties	0

f. Awards and Decorations to members of this command included:

TYPE	NUMBER
Silver Star	0
Legion of Merit	0
Bronze Star (Valor)	0
Bronze Star (Merit)	1
Air Medal (Merit)	0
Air Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster)	0
Commendation Medal (Valor)	0
Commendation Medal (Merit)	1
Purple Heart	2

NOTE: In addition to these awards, eight (8) recommendations for awards have been submitted and are pending approval by USARV.

g. R&R Program schedules include the following:

(1) The In-Country R&R consisting of 3 day passes to Vung Tau have been utilized by twelve (12) personnel. This program was temporarily suspended with the unit's attachment to Task Force OREGON.

(2) The Out-of-Country R&R included the following 5 day quotas:

LOCATION	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
Hawaii	3	3	6	12
Tokyo	1	0	8	9
Taipei	1	0	5	6
Hong Kong	2	3	8	13
Bangkok	2	5	8	15
Singapore	0	2	2	4
Penang	0	1	0	1

h. Judicial and Non-Judicial actions by units included:

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29 April 67

SUBJECT: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ART 15</u>	<u>SCM</u>	<u>SPCM</u>	<u>OCM</u>
Headquarters Battery	2	0	0	0
A Battery	1	0	0	0
B Battery	2	0	0	0
C Battery	5	0	2	0
Service Battery	1	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Unit mail clerk picks up mail and delivers mail from the nearest APO. APO number for this unit is 96256. This is the APO of the 196th Infantry Brigade, and mail comes to the battalion in the Chu Lai-Duc Pho area via this APO.

j. Pertinent Medical Service statistics include:

Total patient visits (Unit Personnel)	620
Admitted to hospital	13
Evacuated within the country	1
Evacuated out of country	0
Malaria cases	0

k. Reportable accidents included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
Headquarters Battery	2	0	0
A Battery	1	0	3
B Battery	1	0	0
C Battery	0	0	1
Service Battery	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

l. The morale of the command is outstanding. USO Beach facilities at Chu Lai are provided on a regular basis for a limited number of personnel. Special Services has provided games, ping pong tables, pool tables and current motion pictures.

m. Educational opportunities have been provided by USAFI extension courses. Several enlisted men have written directly to USAFI in Madison, Wisconsin, inquiring about educational opportunities.

n. Religious services are provided on a regular basis by Protestant and Catholic Chaplains. Services are available to all batteries each week.

o. Throughout the battalion, personal hygiene, prophylactic usage and frequent lectures on venereal diseases have helped in maintaining a low percentage of V.D. The Battery Commanders and Surgeon complement each others efforts in the approach to the problem.

2. (U) Intelligence:

a. On 10 March 1967, this headquarters received a Command Inspection from 23d Artillery Group and received a Superior rating.

b. This headquarters did not have an aerial observation section during the reporting period.

3. (U) Training:

a. On-the-job training and individual cross training continues in all units of the 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery. Personnel

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

from Survey and Wire Sections have been cross trained in the Fire Direction techniques and as Forward Observers.

b. The following periods of mandatory training were conducted during the reporting period:

- (1) Code of Conduct: 2 hours
- (2) Character Guidance: 2 hours
- (3) Weapons Familiarization: 2 Hours
- (4) Command Information: 2 hours
- (5) First Aid: 2 hours

c. On 7 March 1967, Sgt Richard S. Caldwell, Chief of Section, attended an out-of-country Special Weapons Refresher Course.

#### 4. (C) Operations:

a. Normal operations consistent with the battalion's missions were conducted during the reporting period.

b. On 1 April 1967, the Battalion (minus B and C Batteries) displaced from their base camp at Phu Loi to a new base camp at Tay Ninh. At this time the Battalion assumed the mission of General Support, Reinforcing the 25th Division Artillery.

c. The following operations were participated in by units of this battalion:

(1) Operation Big Spring - Battery A was detached from 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery and attached 3d Battalion, 319th Arty, 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) on 31 January 1967 and remained attached until 10 February 1967. While participating in Operation Big Spring, Battery A fired 3,480 rounds accounting for 16 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC KIA (P), 10 tons of rice destroyed, two 2½ ton trucks destroyed and one 3/4 ton truck destroyed.

(2) The Battalion Headquarters participated in Operations GADSDEN from 1 February to 9 February 1967. During this period the battalion assumed artillery operational control of the Dau Tieng TAOR.

(3) Battery A deployed to Lai Khe on 21 March 1967 to reinforce the fires of the 1st Battalion, 33d Artillery in Operation LAMSON NORTH, returning to Phu Loi on 28 March 1967. During this period the battery fired 4,326 rounds.

(4) Battery C (-) one platoon departed Go Dau Ha Base Camp 28 January 1967 and closed Duc Hoa with the mission of Reinforcing the 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery. Battery C (-) remained at Duc Hoa until 5 February 1967. During the period, Battery C fired 790 rounds with numerous bunkers and one sampan destroyed.

(5) On 18 March 1967, one platoon, Battery C was attached to the 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery in support of operations in the Duc Hoa area. The platoon returned to Go Dau Ha Base Camp on 21 March 1967.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

(6) The battalion conducted a series of operations designated Operation "Turkey Shoot". To date eight operations have been conducted. Each operation was accomplished by moving two firing platoons into field position, and firing on VC targets in the areas of Ben Suc, the Boi Loi Woods and Tien Thuan Woods. These areas were outside the range capability of friendly artillery in the adjacent base camps and, consequently, the areas were heavily infested with VC. Security was normally provided by U.S. or ARVN Infantry and a platoon of M42 AW weapons. The most significant of the operations were conducted on 27 February, 4 March, 16 March, 17 March and 25 March 1967. The results were 18 sampans destroyed, 6 bunkers destroyed, and numerous fish nets, docks and docking areas destroyed.

(7) The battalion is presently participating in operations with Task Force ORGON. The battalion was moved by C-130 aircraft and LST from Tay Ninh to Chu Lai with the mission of General Support, reinforcing the 196th Infantry Brigade. To date, on this operation, the battalion has fired 5,913 rounds. Battery C was detached from 2d Bn, 11th Artillery and attached to 2d Bn, 9th Artillery on 22 April 1967 and is currently located in Duc Pho, RVN. This battery was airlifted by CH 47 and CH 53 helicopters to Duc Pho, which was the first time that a medium Artillery Battalion from II FFV had deployed by helicopter. This unit incurred no major problems in its movement to Chu Lai or in its attachment to Task Force ORGON. The Battalion Headquarters and an attached battery from 3d Bn, 18th Artillery outloaded by LST for Duc Pho on 30 April. This element with Battery C received the mission of reinforcing the 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery in the Duc Pho area of operation.

d. The missions with total amounts of ammunition expended during this reporting period, are listed below:

UNIT	MSN FIRED	AMMO EXPENDED
Btry A	3,052	20,790
Btry B	3,116	15,900
Btry C	3,219	17,812
TOTALS	9,387	62,502

### 5. (U) Logistics:

a. During the period 1 February 1967 to 30 April 1967, the general condition of supply has improved, although the unit continues to have difficulty in receiving TA 50-901 equipment. Active follow-up and command action have been taken to improve this situation.

b. Maintenance support has improved during this period. No major maintenance problems have occurred with the attachment to Task Force Oregon. Support during the initial build up of forces was obtained, on an informal basis, from Task Force Xray of the 1st Marine Division in the Chu Lai area.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

29 April 67

SECTION II

PART I - OBSERVATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration:

None.

2. (U) Intelligence:

a. ITEM: Field Safes in Battalion Headquarters.

(1) DISCUSSION: Due to the large amount of classified material generated in the theater, the battalion headquarters is not adequately supplied with field safes to properly store and safeguard these documents. There is currently only one safe authorized for the S-2/S-3 section in an artillery battalion. This has proved to be inadequate for storing classified material.

(2) OBSERVATION: One safe should be authorized for the S-2 section and one for the S-3 section. This would provide adequate storage space and decrease the possibility of losing or misplacing a document. A requisition has been submitted for an additional safe with the above justification.

b. ITEM: Number of Secret Documents Passed to Battalion Level.

(1) DISCUSSION: An artillery battalion S-2 section is authorized one officer and one NCO. This has proved to be inadequate in handling the amount of secret documents currently being received. During this reporting period, more than half of the SECRET documents received did not pertain to this headquarters.

(2) OBSERVATION: An excessive number of classified documents are being received by this unit which do not pertain to the unit's activities.

3. (U) Training and Organization:

None.

4. (C) Operations:

a. ITEM: M520 Fuse:

(1) DISCUSSION: The M520 time fuse has been very unreliable. When firing charge 3, as many as 50% of the rounds were detonated on impact rather than at the preset time. Many of the fuzes issued were M500A1 restamped M520. The suspected cause for the unreliability of the fuse is exposure to the elements for even a minimum length of time. A UER was submitted through 23d Artillery Group on or about 1 March 1967.

(2) OBSERVATION: The M520 fuse, which are repurposed from the M500A1, is found to be unreliable after a short period of exposure to the elements.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

b. ITEM: Firing Pit:

(1) DISCUSSION: To facilitate and speed up the 6400 mil traverse capability for the 155mm towed howitzer in a semi-permanent site, this unit designed and constructed octagon-shaped trail pits. By using 12" x 12" beams thirteen feet in length, positioned in the trail pit and reinforced by  $\frac{1}{4}$ " steel cable and further supported by packed soil and concrete abutments, the howitzer trails could be shifted 6400 mils with minimum displacement and in less than 60 seconds. Prior to the use of this method, trails were often dug three to four feet into the soil with aiming post displacements in excess of 40 mils.

(2) OBSERVATION: The octagonal trail pits allow 155mm towed howitzers to shift trails 6400 mils with minimum displacement and in less than 60 seconds.

c. ITEM: DESTRUCTION MISSIONS:

(1) DISCUSSION: When firing destruction missions, it has been found that by using two guns, converged sheaf, quicker and more effective results are obtained. Once fire-for-effect has commenced, the half-fork method of adjustment is used, rather than the full-fork method because experience has shown that the adjustments by the observers are within 50 meters of the target. (Air observers have been used almost exclusively.) At ranges of 13,000 meters or greater, experience has also shown that the trial brackets can be continually split using elevation changes in tenths of mils, rather than using the normal procedure of computing one half-one third, and one fourth the elevation change for the adjusted quadrant elevation. Using two guns increases the probability of achieving target hits.

(2) OBSERVATION: Faster and better results can be obtained in destruction missions using two guns, converged sheaf with the half-fork method of adjustment.

d. ITEM: Fire Commands:

(1) DISCUSSION: FM 6-40 recommends that Fire Commands be transmitted from FDC to the recorder at the XO Post, then retransmitted to the guns. This is subject to errors in transmission and is time consuming. This unit therefore, transmits the command directly from FDC to the guns.

(2) OBSERVATION: Fire Commands transmitted to the recorder and then retransmitted to the guns only adds to the possibility of error and is time consuming.

e. ITEM: 155mm Propellants:

(1) DISCUSSION: Some of the propelling charges issued for 155mm howitzers are marked "For Emergency Combat Use Only." This propellant has proved to be unreliable and creates a safety hazard when firing close-support missions. A separate command letter was forwarded on this subject. This unit currently uses this type propellant for H&I fires only.

(2) OBSERVATION: Propellants marked "For Emergency Combat Use Only" are unreliable for close support missions.

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29 April 67

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

5. (C) Logistics:

a. ITEM: Obturator Plugs:

(1) DISCUSSION: This unit has continued to experience difficulties in obtaining Obturator Plugs, Spindle (FSN 1025-730-5011). Requisitions for this item, submitted on an C-2 priority have been received on the average of ninety days later. From 1 February 1967 to 18 April 1967, this unit did not have one Obturator Plug in its PLL. As a result, when a plug became defective, it resulted in the gun being inoperative until the part could be replaced. During this reporting period, the battalion has forwarded three Command Letters, two Command Messages, and two UER's on this subject. In addition, the Battalion Maintenance Officer has spent approximately fifty percent of his time, attempting to locate these critical parts.

(2) OBSERVATION: A minimum of three Obturator Plugs must be on hand in each battery PLL to insure continuous operations of all weapons.

b. ITEM: Lack of TA 50-901 Items:

(1) DISCUSSION: A serious problem exists in the procurement of TA 50-901 items of organizational equipment; i.e., rifle, M-14; Armor Vest, Body; Liner, Helmet. During one ten day period in early March 1967, this unit had fifteen replacement personnel for whom critical TA 50-901 could not be obtained. This included helmets and armor vests. The S-4 of this unit visited every major supply depot in II FFV area in an attempt to procure these items. A command letter was forwarded on 3 March pertaining to this subject. In order to provide helmets and armor vests to replacement personnel, officers were directed to transfer their own personal TA 50-901.

(2) OBSERVATION: As a minimum, each individual replacement should have a rifle, armor vest and steel helmet when transferred from replacement depots.

SECTION III

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration:

None.

2. (U) Intelligence:

a. One additional field safe be authorized in the S-2/S-3 Section of each battalion.

b. Traffic of SECRET documents be held to a minimum, with addressees limited to units with a "need to know" requirements.

3. (U) Training:

None.

4. (C) Operations:

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29 April 67

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

a. Recommended that reworked fuses remain sealed in containers until actually required. This method will improve the reliability of reworked fuses by 90%, although it reduces response time by 30-40 seconds.

b. Recommend 155mm towed howitzer units construct octagonal gun pits, reinforced by cabling and concrete abutments, when located in semi-permanent installations.

c. Recommend that a system be incorporated in FM 6-40 which outlines a method for the use of two guns during a destruction mission employing the half fork method.

d. Recommend that powder lots be carefully separated and that all propellants marked "For Emergency Combat Use Only" be used to fire H&I's fire only. This propellant should not be used for close support missions.

5. (C) Logistics:

a. Recommend a minimum of three Obturator Plugs be on hand in each battery PLL to insure continuous operation of all howitzers.

b. Recommend that newly assigned personnel be issued, as a minimum; a steel helmet with liner, vest armor, body; and a rifle, M-14 or M-16 prior to being reassigned from a replacement battalion.



EDWARD B. VOGEL  
LTC, Artillery  
Commanding

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AVDF-GC (29 Apr 67) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

HQ, TASK FORCE OREGON (PROV), APO San Francisco 96374, 10 July 1967

TO: Commanding General, USARV, APO San Francisco 96375

Transmitted herewith is the Quarterly Operation Report - Lessons Learned for the 2nd Bn, 11th Arty, period ending 30 April 1967.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

O. A. GERNER JR  
CPT. AGC  
Asst. Adj. Gen.

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AVHGC-DST (29 Apr 67) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,  
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning field safes, section II, paragraph 2a: Nonconcur with unit action taken. MTOE must be submitted IAW USAF Regulation 310-31 to secure a change in unit authorization. The unit will be informed of this requirement by separate correspondence.

b. Reference item concerning secret documents, section II, paragraph 2b and section III, paragraph 2b: Concur. Unit should initiate action to reduce the number of documents received from their next higher headquarters. This headquarters makes classified distribution only to major subordinate commands based on requirements submitted by them and does not service smaller units unless the document is specifically addressed to such a unit.

c. Reference item concerning 155mm propellants, section II, part I, paragraph 4e and section III, part I, paragraph 4d: Concur. TB 9-1300-385 outlines policy governing use of ammunition "For Emergency Combat Use". This category is issued only when there is insufficient serviceable ammunition available. As long as gun crews are not exposed to hazards, the use of propelling charges in this category for H&I fires is an economical practice resulting in a monetary savings to the US government.

d. Reference item concerning lack of TA 50-901 items, section II, part I, paragraph 5b and section III, part I, paragraph 5b: Nonconcur. Some TA 50-901 items are in short supply; however, organizational clothing and equipment are arriving in-country daily. This problem is being closely monitored by this headquarters and the expected "get well" date on these items is late August or early September 1967. This headquarters has the authority to approve temporary loans of

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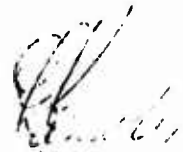
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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

rifles to cover overstrengths due to rotational overlaps. Maintaining a supply of these items at the replacement depot would reduce the availability to using units and would complicate the accountability.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
R. L. [unclear]  
Capt.  
Asst Adjutant

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GPOP-DT(29 Apr 67) 3d Ind (U)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
from HQ, 2d Bn, 11th Arty (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 20 SEP 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding  
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

*G. L. McMullin*

G. L. McMULLIN  
MAJ, AGC  
Asst AG

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